

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	DOCKET NO. RPU-00-1 (TF-00-64)
---	-----------------------------------

ORDER GRANTING PETITIONS TO INTERVENE

(Issued May 16, 2000)

On March 15, 2000, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S West), filed a proposed tariff identified as TF-00-64 in which U S West proposes to deaverage its wholesale and retail rates in Iowa. On April 14, 2000, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order suspending the tariff and docketing the petition for investigation.

On April 20, 2000, McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc. (McLeodUSA), filed a petition to intervene in this docket. McLeodUSA states that it is an Iowa corporation providing integrated telecommunications services to business and residential customers in Iowa. McLeodUSA further states that it is U S West's largest wholesale customer in Iowa, giving McLeodUSA an unique interest in this proceeding.

On April 24, 2000, separate petitions to intervene were filed by Crystal Communications, Inc. (Crystal), Goldfield Access Network, L.C. (Goldfield), and Rhythms Links Inc. (Rhythms). Crystal states it is a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) offering service in competition with U S West in the Des Moines, Adel, Ankeny, and Winterset, Iowa, exchanges. Crystal provides service through resale of

U S West services, use of its own facilities, and purchase of unbundled network elements (UNEs) from U S West. As a wholesale and UNE customer of U S West, Crystal has an interest in these proceedings.

Goldfield's petition is substantially similar to Crystal's; however, Goldfield competes with U S West in the Clarion, Eagle Grove, Humboldt, and Renwick, Iowa, exchanges, through purchase of UNEs from U S West. The exchanges in which Goldfield competes with U S West would all be included in U S West's proposed Rate Group 3 rural markets. U S West proposes to raise the monthly rate for UNEs in each of these exchanges.

Rhythms is a CLEC that provides, among other services, residential and business local telecommunications service and high-speed local and interexchange data services, primarily by use of DSL technology. Rhythms states it will be a customer of U S West for wholesale and carrier-to-carrier services in Iowa.

The Board will grant all four petitions to intervene. The Board finds that each petitioner has alleged a sufficiently different interest in this matter to justify individual intervention. McLeodUSA is U S West's largest wholesale customer in Iowa; Crystal is primarily concerned with U S West's proposed rates in some of the larger exchanges, while Goldfield's focus is on the more rural exchanges; while Rhythms is offering service primarily through DSL technology. The Board will grant each of the petitioner's full party status in this proceeding, with unrestricted rights to participate as their various interests may appear.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The petition to intervene filed by McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc., on April 20, 2000, is granted

2. The petitions to intervene filed by Crystal Communications, Inc., Goldfield Access Network, L.C., and Rhythms Links Inc., on April 24, 2000, are granted.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 16th day of May, 2000.